

**In The Specification:**

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Second stage fresh water is obtained through the vapour condensation on condenser 2, being collected in the container 24. Through outlet nozzle 25 (Fig.1), condensate is pumped to reservoir. Inside condenser tubes circulates cold salt water through inlet nozzle 26 (Fig. 1), leaving on nozzle outlet 27. Here, a stream [[4]] is derived in order to feed first stage. ~~Returned salt water 28 is discharged.~~

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Level is maintained on the first stage by the weir 28 [[29]]. In the same way, second stage level is maintained by weir 29 [[30]]. Salt water that overboards weir 29 [[30]] exits the unit through outlet 30 [[31]], being suctioned by eductor 10 (Fig 1) to discharge 31 [[32]] (Fig. 1).

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Nominal flow rate is obtained through control valve 32 [[33]] and flow meter 33 [[34]] (Fig.1). Instruments as thermometers and manometers are used for operational control, and a pressure safety relief valve 34 [[35]] installed on the first stage grants against over pressure.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

A thin steel shell 35 [[36]] (Fig. 5), here named armour, which is assembled in two halves by flanges, encloses second stage tube bundle. The role of this armour is to direct the vapour to pass through the tubes, avoiding being suctioned directly to vacuum pipe 11 (Fig. 1). The welded edge 36 [[37]] (Fig. 5) supports the

armour at the top of the first stage inner shell 3. A gasket bonded bellow the edge avoids vapour leakage.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A cut 37 [[38]] (Fig. 6) made at the bottom tube sheet and at the floating head 21, permits the passage of the fixed vacuum pipe 11.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The first stage of this model (Fig. 11) is similar to the two stage model, but the base 38 [[39]] (Fig. 11) is now welded to the inner and outer shells 39 [[40]] and 40 [[41]] respectively (Fig. 11), in order to have a reliable watertight. At the centre of this base is welded a support 41 [[42]] (Fig. 11 and 12), in order to hold and centralise the intermediate stage (Fig. 13).

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

On this model, vacuum lines 42 [[43]] and 43 [[44]] (Fig. 11) and distillate outlets 44 [[45]] and 45 [[46]], are located bellow the unit, in order to permit easy access of second and third stages.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

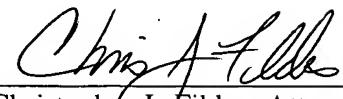
Ring Evaporator Bundle has also an armour 46 [[47]] (Fig. 13), in order to direct the first stage vapour to its bundle 47 [[48]]. Floating head 48 [[49]] has in this way a ring format also, as shown on figure 14 (bottom view) and figure 15 (section view). An internal shell 49 [[(50)]] encloses and isolate the vapour inside this stage.

Preliminary Amendment -- 6  
PCT/BR2003/000108

Respectfully submitted,

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amend/pct